

In the wheeled vehicle department, it's a genuine breakthrough. The point is reconfigurability. That's what provides flexibility and that's what has never been done before."

On display with the truck are four of its most innovative module systems, the Base Power Module, Electro-Optics Module, Weapons Module Pad and Integrated Communications Module. According to SmarTruck II Program Manager Germaine Fuller, "The Base Power Module is the brain of the vehicle. Currently, SmarTruck II uses shore power to prevent depleting the vehicle's power for auxiliary units. The Base Power Module manages that power and acts as a control and switching center for AC/DC capabilities." The Electro-Optics Module has a 30-foot vertical lift that hosts a high-powered surveillance camera that is capable of viewing objects 20 miles away. Other military applications for this module could include battlefield radar hosting and electronic warfare packages.

The most impressive module, the Weapons Module Pad, boasts an

impressive Spike fire-and-forget missile system and its two supporting self-feeding magazines. Developed by the U.S. Navy specifically for the SmarTruck II platform, Spike is a low-cost, shoulder-launched, man-packable system that houses 16 missiles and can fire 2 missiles simultaneously at independent targets. When not in use, the Spike retracts into the module for storage.

Lastly, the communications module ensures that vehicle crew can securely communicate with various military and intelligence sources. This module also integrates 3D mapping capability, vehicle-mounted thermal imaging and in-vehicle surveillance radar that is capable of detecting moving objects within 7 kilometers of the vehicle. Additionally, the Integrated Communications Module houses the truck's cutting-edge light-emitting diode (LED) messaging system. "This is the first time such a system has been used on this type of vehicle platform," explained Fuller. "Through using infrared spectrum communication housed in the

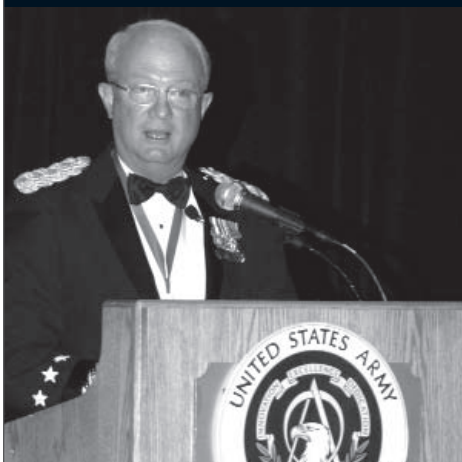
truck's tail lights, the LED system enables SmarTruck to communicate with other vehicles in a convoy. Trailing vehicles' computers are then able to read the information and decipher things such as the lead truck's speed, direction and braking distance between the vehicles."

As technologically advanced as the SmarTruck II is, the most important aspect of this truck is its role. As summed up by designer Ferren, "The message here is really about saving lives. The truck's purpose is to meet the requirements of a new, emerging challenge — how to most effectively protect our cities and people. We designed SmarTruck II for this role — to help people and to save lives."

PAUL D. MEHNEY is a Marketing Specialist with TARDEC's Operations Business Group. He has a B.A. from Michigan State University.

Army Acquisition Corps: 'Your Soldiers' on Point for the Betterment of the Army

LTG John S. Caldwell Jr.



The following is excerpted from LTG John S. Caldwell Jr.'s keynote address at the 2003 Army Acquisition Corps Ball, Oct. 5, 2003, Arlington, VA.

Photos by SPC Adam R. Mancini, Army Visual Information Division

Congressman and Mrs. Schulze, Michael and Barbara Wynne, Secretary and Mrs. Bolton, Gil Decker, Page and Barbara Hoeper, Dr. and Mrs. Ken Oscar, General and Mrs. Paul Kern, Judy — distinguished guests all. Good evening and welcome to the Army Acquisition Corps (AAC) Ball.

Before I get into my remarks and reminiscences, I want to remind us all that our Nation is at war and our service men and women are in harm's way every day, even right now. They are there because our way of life and our freedoms are under attack. Please keep them in your prayers.

Now, I want to take a little of your time and talk about "us" and what we do to support our warfighters and what we must do to transform our Army. I want your spouses, families and friends to understand what you do for our great Army.

Who are "we?" We are the Nation's Acquisition Workforce, a special blend of uniformed military, government civilians, supporting industry and friends.

Let me focus on your Army Acquisition Corps, military and civilian. I'll call them "Your Soldiers" in this audience. "Your Soldiers" fight a myriad of battles every single day to safeguard the systems in development so they can actually become combat capabilities. They fend off wolves and have to deal with more oversight than a second lieutenant who has just made his first big mistake.

The warfighters we support often undervalue "Your Soldiers." Field commanders are unaware of the battles "Your Soldiers" fight on their behalf. The regulations, policies and laws that govern our business

frustrate them. However, "Your Soldiers" go through each day making the Army the best, realizing that they will get little credit for their efforts, outside of their own community. They work hard, deploy, fight and have longer commands. Yet, "Your Soldiers" are the grease in the wheels that the Army cannot operate without. "Your Soldiers" are the ones that design, build, field, sustain and retire the capabilities that enable our Army to dominate any enemy wishing to tangle with us.

"Your Soldiers" fight a myriad of battles every single day to safeguard the systems in development so they can actually become combat capabilities. They fend off wolves and have to deal with more oversight than a second lieutenant who has just made his first really big mistake.

You may say, wow, that's pretty grim. Well, at least they get to work in luxurious office space like the Pentagon! Did any of you hear the recent story about the Pentagon penthouse?

The Pentagon penthouse was the 5th floor nerve center where the Acquisition Corps storm troopers prepared the Future Combat Systems program to do battle in the halls of the Pentagon heading toward program approval last May. Field marshals Yakovac [MG(P) Joseph L. Yakovac] and Schenk [BG Donald

Schenk] were in command. I tried to show you pictures, but no one would volunteer them. However, many witnesses are here among you tonight. Look around and a smile may betray them.

The penthouse was established last fall as a small office, equipped for about five, but normally occupied by 20 on a 24-hour shift basis. With

the dust 3 inches thick, it probably hadn't been used since GEN George C. Marshall was Chief of Staff.

Well, the penthouse conditions were tolerable for a while. But a few weeks into it, a young major asked me, "Sir, how long are we going to be working like this?" I said, I think we're making good progress, but you should expect to be there until the big milestone decision meeting. He replied, "Which one? May 3 or the one in November 2004?" I just smiled.

Soon the "house" was in disarray. It smelled like a locker room, looked like a college dorm room on a Saturday morning, had trash piled up inside and out, clothes hanging off of everything imaginable and had the sound of a tactical operations center. Let me tell you this place was an operations center and nothing less. The storm troopers were counterattacking in every direction all day long. It got so bad they had rodents stealing their food and paperwork. It was at that point I made my visit to the penthouse to award my coins for valor.

So we have "Your Soldiers" leading our Acquisition Corps, military and civilian, doing battle around the world. Let me mention just a few.

COL Nick Justice and LTC John Bullington did great things with fielding digital systems in Iraq; COL Mary Fuller, Craig Spisak and COL Peggy Carson helped me with the personnel part of this business; MAJ Lance Scott fielded advanced joint battle command capabilities in Iraq; LTC Mark Malatesta provided biological agent detection capability to all the services; COL Bruce Jette, working directly with field commanders and our program managers, converted



Army Acquisition Executive Claude M. Bolton Jr. presented a statuette representing the American Soldier's tireless efforts to keep the United States free for all to LTG John S. Caldwell Jr., thanking him for giving the AAC Ball keynote address.

technology into fielded combat capability in record time; COL Curtis McCoy handled all the battle damage assessments in Iraq; and finally, it was LTC John Zavarelli who ran the Pentagon penthouse.

Let me briefly address what we need to do to transform our Army and continue to lead the transformation of our Joint Forces. These strategic objectives will be your challenge and they are articulated in our Campaign Plan (<http://asc.army.mil/divisions/cm>). It shouldn't surprise you that they are all people oriented. The right people will handle the rest.

First, we need to strengthen the relationship between the acquisition workforce and the warfighter. This will enable us to get better combat capability faster, and better spotlight the value of your Army Acquisition Corps.

Second, we must provide a clearly defined environment that encourages and offers career opportunities and leader development. This will enable us to fill the shoes of those great leaders that have gone before us — many are here tonight.

Third, we must maintain a technically competent workforce responsive to the current and future Army's needs. This will enable our forces to maintain and even widen our force's technological advantage in this very dangerous world.

As I near retirement, I've given a fair amount of thought to how I'd like my 36-year career contributions to be measured. Let me share that with you. You can agree or disagree.

I was commissioned in 1967. Some of you are my contemporaries. We were at war in Vietnam, not yet near the end or even the most violent phase. During the most violent phase, 300 to 400 Americans were being killed each week! By the end of hostilities, more than 58,000 died in that war — 27 of them were my West Point classmates. Several hundred thousand more were seriously wounded.

I like to think that my contemporaries that stayed in the military decided to do something about that. We set out to transform just about everything about our Army — the quality of its soldiers, leaders, materiel, organization, doctrine and

tactics — everything. Recognizing that the loss of even one life is one too many, to date, we have lost approximately 316 in Iraq and 34 in Afghanistan.* America has lost less than 500 to hostile action since 1980, despite being at war a substantial portion of that time. That's the kind of metric I want to be measured by and I am very proud of our accomplishments.

Your challenge is to be much better than that. Your objective should be zero loss of life.

Well, I can't think of a better way to close than to say how proud I am to be one of "us." I am proud of you and what you have accomplished; and what you will do to meet tomorrow's challenges. I know of your sacrifices. You are great Americans. Thank you and God bless you all.

LTG JOHN S. CALDWELL JR. is the Military Deputy to the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Acquisition, Logistics and Technology and Director, Acquisition Career Management. He has a B.S. degree from the U.S. Military Academy and an M.S. degree in mechanical engineering from Georgia Institute of Technology. In addition, he has attended the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College and the Defense Systems Management College Program Management course. He will retire Jan. 1, 2004, capping a distinguished career of more than 36 years.

*As of press time, that number has risen to 423 casualties in Iraq and 92 in Afghanistan. These figures include hostile and nonhostile casualties.